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STATE SEN. HEWITT NAMED TO KEY NATIONAL & REGIONAL ENERGY PANELS

District 1 State Senator Sharon Hewitt (R-Slidell) is taking on new responsibilities. Sen. Hewitt is a new member of two important energy panels, the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) Energy and Environment Committee and the Energy Council. Senate President John Alario recently appointed the first year legislator to the posts.

The Southern Legislative Conference is a member-driven organization that provides policy research, professional development and support for legislators in the southern region. Member states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Energy Council is a legislative organization of eleven energy producing states and two Canadian provinces. The council serves as a forum for energy and related environmental policy development. The work of the council helps foster understanding of energy and its role in the global economy and assists states in developing sound legislative energy and environmental policies.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on these energy panels. The energy industry in Louisiana and across the U.S. is facing some difficult times right now and we need to make sure we have the policies and support in place to encourage reasonable, responsible protections for an industry that is so important to our economy," Sen. Hewitt said.

The mechanical engineer who once managed major deepwater assets in the Gulf of Mexico for Shell is serving her first term in the Louisiana Senate. Sen. Hewitt serves as vice-chair of the Senate Transportation, Highways, and Public Works Committee and is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. She also serves on the Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Control and the Select Committee on Women and Children.